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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPOT COMMENTARY

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Staredown Over a Second Round

The opposition still refuses to accept a second-round presidential runoff. Kostunica and Djindjic are calling for a demonstration tonight to demand that Milosevic recognize Kostunica's victory in the first round. By law, the Federal Election Commission has until Thursday night to announce final election results.

- Djindjic is quickening the pace of his public appearance and media interview schedule, *reinforcing the impression that he intends to dominate post-Milosevic politics.*

The opposition's lack of attention to parliamentary elections is giving the regime room to maneuver. So far there has been no opposition reaction to the regime's boast that the election results mean that Yugoslavia will "enjoy four years of stable government" under the ruling coalition.

According to local press reports, opposition candidates so far have won 96 places in the 110 seat Belgrade City Assembly. The regime has two seats, Seselj's radicals one, and 11 require new elections due to voting irregularities. *Earlier this year, Milosevic had made it a priority to recapture Belgrade from the opposition.*

Montenegrin Press reports earlier this week speculated that Bulatovic had resigned from his post, but withdrew his resignation.

European reaction to developments is mixed. This morning, UK Foreign Secretary Cooke objected to a second round of voting and supported the opposition's claim that Kostunica won 55 percent of the vote. OSCE contests the announced results: demands polling station

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results be published. On the other hand, Council of Europe Secretary-General Schwimmer called for lifting sanctions even in a "worst-case scenario" where Milosevic wins reelection in a second round.

- Russian Foreign Minister Ivanov today appealed for "calm and stability" in Serbia and, *in a statement perhaps responding to Cooke*, warned against outside pressure on the FRY [REDACTED]
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